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The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 6, Issue 11
November, 2005

Calendar of Future Events

See Calendar on the last page for Current Events

Dec 1	Yorktown Celebrates Christmas preparation of live Christmas decorations
Dec 3	Yorktown Celebrates Christmas Open House in Yorktown
Dec 7, 9-12	YCMG Advanced Pruning Class (Tentative Date)
Dec 10	Virginia Master Gardener Association meeting (Contact Jackie Lohr @ rlahr@cox.net)
Dec 13, 9:30	Programming Meeting in Big Room, Pot Luck Brunch, special program
Dec 14, 9:30-12	YCMG Advanced Pruning Class, Field Session
Dec 15, 9:30-12	YCMG Advanced Pruning Class, Field Session
Dec 21, 12-1pm	HearSay Gardening Radio Show, 89.5 FM
Dec 23 & 26	HOLIDAY – Office Closed
Mar 1-5, 2006	46th Annual Southern Spring Home & Garden Show, Charlotte Merchandise Mart, Charlotte, NC
Mar 3, 2006-noon	Southern Cooperative Extension & Master Gardener Day Luncheon and Program

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940, or Byrdie Hawley at 898-6175 or E-mail dabhawley@cox.net (Put Green Thumb in the subject line). The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m:

The first Thursday of each month we start with a planning meeting in the Environmental Services Building and then are in the garden, time permitting.



Please note that the November Programming meeting will be held in the big room of St. Luke's, 9:30, on Nov 29th. We will be inviting the MG Class of 2005 as our guests. Drinks and paper goods will be provided; bring a dish to share. We will also have a plant exchange for those that wish to participate (You bring extra plants from your yard, and you go home with different plants for your yard!) Hope to see everyone there. Terry Hanson

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, Age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Coordinators Roles: I have had some really good meetings with the Class of 2005 trainees and have been able to fill many coordinator roles. We have 12 trainees and over 30 programs, so I will be contacting many of you to fill the roles that are vacant. Thank you for returning your volunteer commitment forms.

Calling Jim: Master Gardeners are staff members of the York Extension Office. My staff members are encouraged to call my phone line directly. Please call me at 890-4944. Please leave me detailed messages or the question that you need answered. It becomes the case that we only talk to answering machines but this helps us to get our business done. Please do not give 890-4944 to the general public.

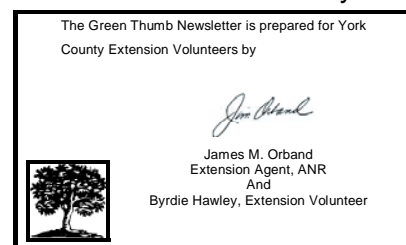
Class of 2005 Graduation: The graduation committee has decided to have their graduation at Nick's Riverwalk Landing on November 15. We have 35 people in the class and all instruction is going well. If you want to see the class schedule go to: <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce/progareas/mastergardeners/mgs.htm>.

Yorktown Celebrates Information: Annually, York County Master Gardeners are asked to decorate the Dudley Diggs home in Yorktown to prepare for the Yorktown Celebrates Open House on December 3rd. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Debbie Frecker for details at 890-2698. Debbie and Liz Tragle will keep you informed of their needs.

Look for more about phones in the December issue of the Green Thumb.

Be sure to listen to "Gardening Hearsay" on November 16, 12:00–1:00 pm on WHRO – 89.5.

Thanks, Jim



News From Terry Hanson, Coordinator: Fall is here and it's a wonderful time to be in your garden. My note to you last month got lost in cyberspace, so let me get caught up. The new class of MGs have begun their studies and are very enthusiastic. Please make note on your calendars that we will officially welcome the new MGs at the November Programming Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 9:30, St. Luke's. We didn't want to interfere with the Thanksgiving week, so we're bumping the meeting back to late November. And speaking of MG classes. . . congratulations for the MG Class of 2004! We had 100% of them complete their hours and all are now officially MGs!! Way to go!! And while we're congratulating . . . several of our MGs reached milestones and were awarded pins and certificates at our Sept programming meeting. Their names and accomplishments were noted in the GT. A lot of volunteering is reflected by those receiving recognition. Thank you for all you do to make our York County MG program such a success! Lastly, I urge you to read the articles below concerning a Time Line and the date for our December meeting.

Time Line: We are in the process of creating a month-by-month time line of the Extension programs we support. If you are/were a coordinator of a MG program in 2005, please send me the time line of events for your committee. List the month and the activity you perform. We do not need specifics, i.e., Nov – create curriculum committee; not called 12 people to be on a committee. You can email Terry at Hanson5t@cox.net with your particular committee time line and I would like this info ASAP. I appreciate all of the coordinators sending me their information so I do not have to contact each coordinator individually. Thank you for your promptness.

December Programming/Holiday Meeting: Our December meeting will be held in the big room on Dec 13th (regular Tuesday), at 9:30. There will be a special program and a pot luck brunch. Paper goods and drinks will be provided and you are requested to bring a dish to share. There will be time for you to visit with your fellow MGs (especially the ones you don't see very often) and I hope all of you can attend. Questions? Hanson5T@cox.net

Are You Interested In Container Gardening? Would you like to experiment and learn more about container gardening? The Learning Garden is trying a few containers and would love to have your input. Now is the time to plant the containers for winter and plan next year's containers. If you would like to help, contact Terry Hanson at Hanson5t@cox.net

Thanks to Barb Dunbar, the York County Learning Garden's "Red, White and Blue Garden" was featured on the national JMG website. Barb shouldn't, however, be credited for the many grammatical errors in the article.

HORTICULTURAL THERAPY GROUP AT YORK CONVALESCENT CENTER

113 Battle Road, Yorktown, VA 23692

The next session will be November 22, 2005 at 10:15 AM.

Contact Brenda Bradshaw to volunteer: 898-4733 or email C.Bradshaw@att.net.

We had a very special September session at the Convalescent Center with some delightful students from the New Horizon's Regional Education Center. The children and residents had a great time interacting. They also made a floral arrangement to take home to their parents.

Also, **volunteers are needed** monthly to pick up flowers at Farm Fresh, Kiln Creek and Floral Fashions in Poquoson. Assistance in preparing the floral supplies would also be appreciated, as well as donations of wet foam, plastic laundry caps or other floral supplies.

TO ALL THE NEW GRADUATES: Please join us and bring your clippers, some greenery and your smiles to cheer up our nursing home residents. **Thanks** to all who supported our program and to Jody for her professional assistance.

Following are excerpts from an article by James A. Parkhurst, Ph.D. , Associate Professor, Wildlife Sciences, and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences at Virginia Tech regarding Talpirid, a mole control product: ...the bottom line remains one of "we just don't know yet."no one has anything specific, but a lot of questions. I am asking agents to keep an informal record and gather baseline info to see whether any anecdotal evidence can be gleaned from its use by people contacting the extension offices. Even though that is not really good science, it might give us at least something to start forming a justification for conducting formal testing. We really need to conduct the testing, but there's no money to support it right now. In the meantime, I continue to stand by the recommendations put forth in the publication we have up on the system on proper mole management (Extension Publication 420-201; <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/wildlife/420-201/420-201.html>).

Junior Master Gardeners: Mt. Vernon Elementary School in Tabb needs donations of a few **large to medium pots** that can be placed on the patio at the entrance to the school. They also need donations of any old **outdoor seasonal decorations**, such as flags, wreaths, scarecrows, etc. If anyone is cleaning out their garages or closets, please consider donating the items to the school.

Thanks, **Clare Britcher, 867-7970, clarewb@cox.net**

Lawn Clinic Report: Our lawn clinics were all successful. There were six of them stretching from the Tabb area near Poquoson to Skimino Hills. The weather cooperated. We did not have to deal with rain. Considering the drought it might have been better if we had that problem. All of our Leads and helpers were terrific.

Tom Doggins

SOUTHERN SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW, March 1-5, 2006

Southern Cooperative Extension & Master Gardener Day

Guest Speaker: ROBERT BOWDEN, Leu Botanical Gardens, Orlando

Topic: **"What's Hot & Spicy in the Garden - Trends for 2006"**

Location: Charlotte Merchandise Mart, 2500 E. Independence Blvd., Charlotte, NC

Show hours: 10 AM TO 9 PM Wednesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday

Combined show and luncheon ticket for Master Gardener Day (March 3) is only \$35. (\$40 after February 18th)

Advance show tickets @\$7.50 in advance (\$9 at the show).

Tickets can be ordered by telephone: 800-849-0248, ext. 113; Email: ehains@southernsouths.com

Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference: June 8-11, 2006, Chattanooga will host the 2006 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference.

We will have a very special project for all Masters Gardeners to get their hands a little dirty while they are attending the Conference. The project will be located between the two Tennessee Aquarium buildings along the banks of the Tennessee River. Once the project is completed it will be used as an educational tool for the schools and aquarium groups.

We will also be hosting an open Informational Day to the public. Saturday the 10th we will have National and Regional speakers starting at 10:00am till 5:00pm in the evening and a large vendor area open to everyone to view and buy products and crafts for the lawn and garden.

The Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, A Blending of the Waters, June

Virginia Master Gardener License Plates: Only 70 MGs have completed their application for an MG license plate. When the petition was passed around, more than enough people signed it to allow for the legislation process to begin. In order for these plates to be available, 350 applications must be received by December 31. Please encourage MGs to follow through if they were one of the individuals that signed the original petition. The DMV requires that 350 prepaid applications be submitted before they will issue the plates. These applications must be submitted as a group with one check.



Tom Bolt of Norfolk Master Gardeners, who designed the plate, is coordinating the collection of the 350 applications. Applications must be made on the VSA 10 form and be accompanied by a certification form that the applicant is currently an active or emeritus Virginia Master Gardener. These forms and an instruction sheet for completing and mailing them are available at the VCE office. The cost for this special interest plate is \$10 per year in addition to your regular vehicle registration fee. They may also be personalized for an additional \$10 per year with a limit of six (6) letters/numbers. Handicap plates are also available by indicating on the VSA 10 form that such is needed and also personalized with a limit of five (5) letters/numbers. To insure only VMG active or emeritus members have these plates the certification will be required to be submitted when the plates are renewed. Questions regarding our VMG license plates should be directed to Tom Bolt at 757-459-2019 or e-mail him at tombolt@cox.net.

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We're on the Web!

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November 2005



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 9-12am, MG Training, Plant Pathology	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 No Monthly Programming meeting (See Nov 29)	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 9-12am Class of 2005, MG Trainees Graduation	16 12:00-1:00 WHRO-89.5 "GARDENING HEARSAY"	17	18	19
20	21	22 10:15AM Hort Therapy – York Convalescent Center	23	24 <i>THANKS- GIVING</i>	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27	28	29 Programming meeting- 9:30AM, Lunch- MG Class of 2005 as guests	30	1 Live Christmas Decorations Preparation, Grace Episcopal Church	2	3 Yorktown Celebrates Open House, Yorktown